



March 2006

Katrina Volunteer Ceremony



Congressman John Kline

Enclosures:

- Letter sent to Republican congressional staff
- Copy of certificate
- Press articles
- Best Practices document providing additional information

Staff Contact:

- Steven Sutton or Brooke Dorobiala with Congressman Kline, 225-2271
- Alisha Perkins with Congressman Doolittle, 225-2511
- Katie Strand with Chairman Pryce, 226-9000

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

February 9, 2006

Dear Fellow Republican Congressional Staff:

Last fall, we received an e-mail from the Republican Conference sent to all District Directors. The e-mail contained a sample certificate of recognition that had been distributed to the members by the Conference earlier that week, along with a great suggestion for a project...to recognize constituents who had volunteered to help their fellow Americans who had been victims of Hurricane Katrina.

We began to cut out articles in local newspapers that featured constituents doing something relating to Katrina relief. Over the course of the next 60 days, we had articles that identified about 350 constituents who had done things from raise money to travel to the area and help out.

We then cross referenced the volunteer names we had identified to obtain addresses and phone numbers. We selected dates for the ceremonies and obtained two locations to hold events to present the certificates of recognition. We decided on two events because of the size of our district. We felt that having one in the suburbs and one in a rural area would increase attendance.

We then sent invitations to those we had identified explaining what we were doing and why. We also asked those whom we had invited to let us know if there was anyone else involved with their effort that also should be invited. We received another 150-175 names from that. We then sent out invitations to those who were identified by others and asked for RSVP's.

Our invitations were followed up with press releases announcing the event. Our webmaster then began the process of printing over 500 certificates. We concentrated on first printing those that had confirmed their attendance at our upcoming events. Our Washington staff obtained over 500 blue certificate holders from the office supply store downstairs and shipped them to us. We then obtained photos from the Committee of the CODEL that Congressman Kline went on to the Gulf Coast areas affected by the storms. From those photos, we put together a five minute video presentation to be used during the events. Within two weeks we had about 130 of the 500 that we invited confirmed their attendance. They were pretty equally split between the two events.

About 200 constituents attended each of the two events. The events began with me welcoming those in attendance and introducing Congressman Kline who spoke about his trip to the area. We followed that with the video presentation. Following the video, I went

back to the podium and read each volunteer's name. The individual came forward, shook Congressman Kline's hand, received their certificate and posed for a picture. Then I would read the next name. A member of our staff sat in the front row and took notes as to what each individual was wearing so that photos could be matched up with the right name for distribution to the press.

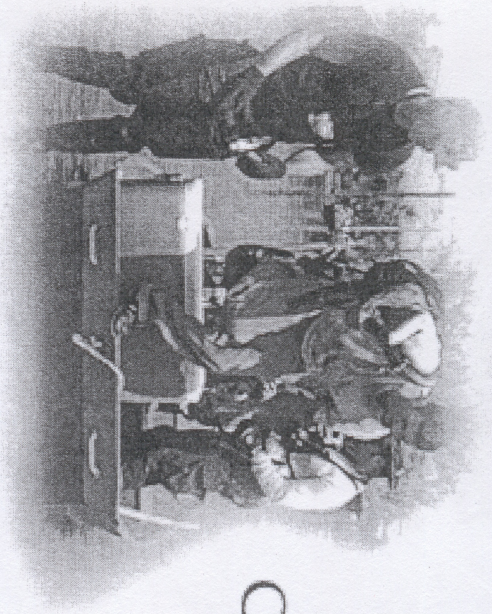
Following the presentation of the certificates, Congressman Kline came back to the podium and gave closing remarks. We then invited anyone who wanted a private picture with the Congressman to come forward after the event.

Following the event, our staff matched photos to names and our press secretary localized the story for each newspaper in our district and sent them the corresponding photo with the story. Staff then concluded the project by mailing certificates to those who were not able to attend the events.

Should you have further questions regarding our event, please feel free to contact me at (952) 808-1213 or Congressman Kline's Chief of Staff, Steven Sutton at (202) 225-2271.

Mike Osskopp
District Director
Congressman John Kline

AMERICA RESPONDS
CONGRISTS OF COMPASSION ACROSS AMERICA



**CERTIFICATE OF SPECIAL
RECOGNITION**

PRESENTED TO

*IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING AND INVALUABLE
SERVICE TO THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA.*

DATE

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

In Washington, Members of Congress continue to consider the most effective and fiscally responsible way to provide hurricane recovery assistance to the Gulf Coast region. Last week, I traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana and Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi for a first-hand look at the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Despite the extensive media coverage and anecdotal evidence which has dominated the news, the totality and expanse of the destruction I saw in these areas is on a scale that is almost unimaginable.

Hurricanes I have previously witnessed and experienced have brought with them terrible weather, damage to roofs and windows, and the loss of electricity and water. These are unpleasant conditions – but nearly all of the damage has been reparable and therefore temporary. After a few weeks, most families have been able to reinhabit their homes, restock their food and water supplies, and return to work, school, and their lives. Nearly two *months* following Hurricane Katrina, however, this is still not the case.

I was taken by military helicopter to view a large area of the affected communities. This aerial tour offered a more clear picture of the magnitude of the path of destruction. A breach of the industrial canal levy completely erased every home and business in its course, while the ensuing lateral flooding caused irreparable damage to homes and businesses in the outlying areas. At ground level, the picture was equally striking: literally every structure in the impacted areas is uninhabitable and unsalvageable. Restoration efforts will consist of rebuilding, not repairing.

Our hearts and prayers are with the men, women, and families in these communities as they begin the difficult process of deciding how – and in some cases, whether – to rebuild. While federal and local governments continue to assess their role in providing assistance, the importance of volunteer efforts and contributions cannot be overstated.

I continue to be impressed by the generosity demonstrated by Minnesotans who are bringing relief to our neighbors down the Mississippi River. These charitable acts are being performed for no reason beyond the desire to make a positive impact. To recognize these ambassadors of goodwill for their efforts and show our gratitude to these outstanding men and women, I will host a volunteer recognition ceremony. Details about the event will be announced later this year. If you know of an individual or group who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help those affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, or Wilma, please contact Mike Osskopp in my Burnsville office by calling (952) 808-1213.

Thank you, in advance, for your help in honoring those Minnesotans who are bringing much needed hope and assistance to the Gulf Coast.

PRIOR LAKE AMERICAN

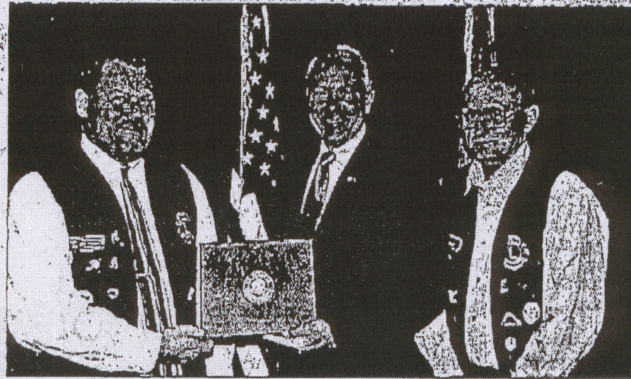
JANUARY 28, 2006

Lions earn honor for hurricane effort

The Prior Lake Lions Club was awarded a Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition for its volunteer work assisting victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes that struck Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

More than 185 people attended an appreciation ceremony Monday at Black Hawk Middle School in Eagan, where U.S. Rep. John Kline honored more than 85 volunteers for their efforts in helping victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

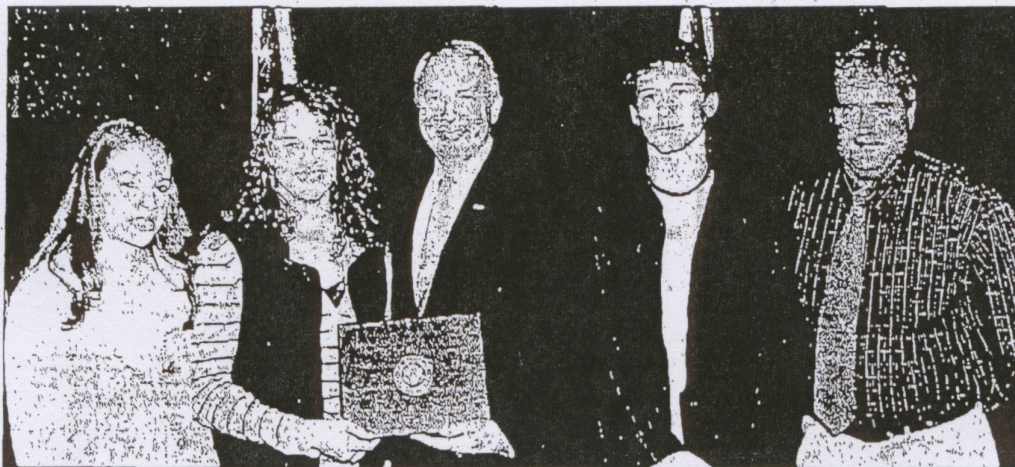
Dan Willgohs and Harry Klinke accepted the award on behalf of the Prior Lake Lions, who aided in relief efforts for victims of both hurricanes.



Prior Lake Lions Dan Willgohs and Harry Klinke accept the Congressional Certificate from U.S. Rep. John Kline. (Submitted photo)

LE CENTER LEADER

FEBRUARY 1, 2006



Submitted photo

Congressman John Kline (middle) stands with Le Center Principal Terry Ronayne (right) and students while honoring them for work with hurricane relief.

Volunteers honored for hurricane relief

LE CENTER — Le Center principal Terry Ronayne and students were awarded with Congressional Certificates of Special Recognition recently for their volunteer work assisting victims of the recent Gulf Coast hurricanes.

More than 210 people attended an appreciation ceremony at Bethlehem Academy, where Congressman John Kline honored more than 85 volunteers for their efforts in helping Gulf Coast victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"You came together to aid those who needed it most," Kline told the guests. "You held fundraisers, you sold baked goods and lemonade, you aided and adopted animals, you donated desperately needed

supplies. You transported and delivered those supplies, and you used your skills in emergency relief and law enforcement.... This room is full of heroes."

Kline visited the ravished Gulf Coast with a Congressional delegation last fall. Like many of the volunteers, he saw the destruction and the devastation created by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It has been five months since the hurricanes hit. Life for many in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama still hasn't come close to returning to normal. It probably won't for years.

"Thousands upon thousands of people still have not returned to their homes and cannot return to their homes because there are

no homes to go to," Kline said. "They have no homes, no jobs, no schools."

While speaking to the audience Sunday in Faribault, Kline shared his frustration with the emergency response. "Most of us were deeply disappointed in the government's slow response," Kline said. "We can and will do better."

Kline urges Minnesotans to do more to help hurricane victims.

"I'm encouraging each and every one of you to do more," Kline said. "The work on the Gulf Coast is far from done. If anyone would like to help, please call the American Red Cross at 800-HELP-NOW (800-435-7669)."

NEW PRAGUE TIMES

FEBRUARY 2, 2006

Pomije receives recognition for helping others

A group of small acts of charity can add up in a big way. Dee Pomije of New Prague and others from Minnesota were recently honored for their efforts that, combined, helped many people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Pomije was among more than 70 individuals and groups that received plaques from United States Congressman John Kline (R-MN) on January 22 at Bethlehem Academy in Faribault. The honors were for their volunteer work to provide relief.

"I made over \$500 on a garage sale," said Pomije, who donated the money to help people affected by the storm.

She said that other people helped in other ways. Ranchers from the state took hay down south to feed to cattle and a nine-year old girl donated \$800 she made in a bake sale.

Pomije said that Congressman Kline was urging people to remember those still being affected by the aftermath of the storm. While it's been a little more than five months since Hurricane Katrina hit the southern area of the U.S. the rebuilding of communities such as New Orleans and people's lives is far from being done.

"He (Kline) became emotional about what's happening," said Pomije. "They still need help."



Submitted Photo

Dee Pomije receives a plaque from Congressman John Kline for her efforts in raising money for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

LE SUEUR NEWS - HERALD

FEBRUARY 1, 2006

Hilltop Elementary School honored for volunteer efforts

**Congressman Kline
urges Minnesotans
not to forget
hurricane victims**

Hilltop Elementary School was awarded with a Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition for their volunteer work assisting victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes that last fall struck Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

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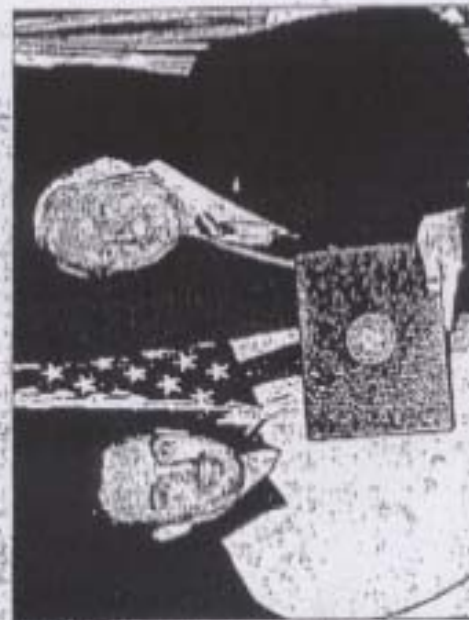
"You came together to aid those who needed it most,"

Kline told the guests. "You held food drives, you sold baked goods and knicknacks, you aided and adopted animals, you donated desperately needed supplies. You transported and delivered those supplies, and you used your skills in emergency relief and law enforcement. This room is full of heroes."

Thousands upon thousands of people still have not returned to their homes and cannot return to their homes because there are no homes to go to, Kline said. "They have no homes, no jobs, no schools."

While speaking to the audience Sunday in Faribault, Kline shared his frustration with the emergency response. "Most of us were deeply disappointed in the government's slow response," Kline said. "We can and will do better."

Kline urged Minnesotans to do more to help hurricane victims. "I'm encouraging each and every one of you to do more," Kline said. "The work on the



Rep. Kline (left) accepted the Congressional award from Congressman John Kline.

Gulf Coast is far from done. If Cross at 800-HELP-NOW anyone would like to help, please call the American Red

THIS WEEK

FEBRUARY 4, 2006

Area volunteers honored for hurricane relief

Area residents were awarded with Congressional Certificates of Special Recognition recently for their volunteer work assisting victims of the recent Gulf Coast hurricanes.

More than 185 people attended an appreciation ceremony Jan. 23 at Black Hawk Middle School in Eagan, where U.S. Rep. John Kline (R-Lakeville) honored more than 85 volunteers for their efforts in helping victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Among those honored were:

- Several Girl Scouts and Brownie troops from Apple Valley. Kaitlyn Linell and Chella Jagarag of Valley Middle School also received special recognition.

- Kris Best accepted an award on behalf of the Minnesota Valley Humane Society, which took care of rescued animals from Hurricane Katrina, and also donated supplies. John Grundmeier, who along with members of Christ Lutheran Church in Shakopee, traveled to Biloxi, Miss., to repair damaged homes and work in shelters. The Burnsville Legion was also honored.

- Eagan Police Officer Jen-

nifer Ruby was among more than a dozen Eagan residents honored. She spent two weeks helping evacuees move from shelters to interim housing in the Gulf Coast, and assisted reuniting family members that were separated during Hurricane Katrina.

- Lakeville North band member Julia Wilson was one of many students who helped organize efforts through Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, which donated band instruments to students in the Gulf Coast. The Lakeville Fire Department, American Legion Post 44, Lakeville Quilters, the Knights of Columbus with All Saints Catholic Church and Lakeville's Applebees were also honored.

- Mayor William Droste, and administrators Sarah Nelson, Mark DeBettignies, and Jamie Verbrugge represented the entire city of Rosemount for its community involvement and organization of hurricane relief for the Gulf Coast.

- Dakota Electric Association sent four linemen to Louisiana, where they cleared debris to re-establish electrical connections and restore power to communities struck by Hur-

ricane Katrina.

"You came together to aid those who needed it most," Kline told the guests. "You held fundraisers, you sold baked goods and lemonade, you aided and adopted animals, you donated desperately needed supplies. You transported and delivered those supplies, and you used your skills in emergency relief and law enforcement... This room is full of heroes."

Kline visited the ravaged Gulf Coast with a Congressional delegation last fall. Like many of the volunteers, he saw the destruction and the devastation created by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It has been five months since the hurricanes hit. Life for many in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama still hasn't come close to returning to normal. It probably won't for years.

"Thousands upon thousands of people still have not returned to their homes and cannot return to their homes because there are no homes to go to," Kline said. "They have no homes, no jobs, no schools."

Kline urges Minnesotans to do more to help hurricane victims.

NEWS-RECORD

FEBRUARY 8, 2006

Zumbrota and Pine Island volunteers honored for efforts

FAIRBAULT — Zumbrota residents Andy Tiarks and Kayla Zamenski, and Pine Island residents Levi Swartzentruber and Rick Kane were awarded with Congressional Certificates of Special Recognition recently for their volunteer work assisting victims of the recent Gulf Coast hurricanes.

More than 210 people attended an appreciation ceremony Sunday at Bethlehem Academy, where Congressman John Kline honored more than 85 volunteers for their efforts in helping Gulf Coast victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"You came together to aid those who needed it most," Kline told the guests. "You held fundraisers, you sold baked goods and lemonade, you aided and adopted animals, you donated desperately needed supplies. You transported and delivered those supplies, and you used your skills in emergency relief and law enforcement.... This room is full of heroes."



Pine Island resident, Rick Kane, receives Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition from Congressman John Kline.

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Last fall, Tiarks held a garage sale and raised almost \$150 for the Red Cross Katrina relief fund. Zamenski held a bake sale to raise money for hurricane victims and raised more than \$850. In Pine Island, Swartzentruber drove a truck filled with supplies to the Gulf Coast, and Rick Kane drove a truck donated by Kautz Trailer Sales to Louisiana. The truck was full of donations from the entire Pine Island community.

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"I'm encouraging each and every one of you to do more," Kline said. "The work on the Gulf Coast is far from done. If anyone would like to help, please call the American Red Cross at 800-HELP-NOW (800-435-7669)."



Pine Island resident, Levi Swartzentruber, receives Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition from Congressman John Kline.



Zumbrota resident, Andy Tiarks, receives Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition from Congressman John Kline.



Zumbrota resident, Kayla Zamenski, receives Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition from Congressman John Kline.

SOUTH WASHINGTON COUNTY BULLETIN FEBRUARY 8, 2006

2C FEBRUARY 8, 2006

SOUTH WASHINGTON COUNTY BULLETIN

HAVE A PEOPLE NEWS ITEM?
Fax it to 459-9491

People

USE OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS
pressrelease@swcbulletin.com

Feeney honored for Gulf Coast aid

Matthew Feeney of Cottage Grove has received a Congressional



Matthew Feeney

Certificate of Special Recognition for his volunteer work assisting victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes that struck Louisiana, Alabama

and Mississippi last fall.

Feeney, a Red Cross volunteer, was among 85 volunteers who were honored by Congressman John Kline at a ceremony at Black Hawk Middle School, Eagan, in January.

"You came together to aid those who needed it most," Kline told guests. "You held fundraisers, you sold baked goods and lemonade, you aided and adopted animals, you donated desperately needed supplies. You transported and delivered those supplies, and you used your skills in emergency relief and law enforcement. This room is full of heroes."

KATRINA VOLUNTEER CEREMONY

MEMBER: REP. JOHN KLINE (MN-02)

STAFF CONTACT: STEVEN SUTTON/BROOKE DOROBIALA

PREPARATION

Who is involved? (District staff, DC staff, etc.)

District staff members are in charge of preparing for the event by monitoring the local newspapers for articles on volunteer activities done on behalf of Hurricane Katrina victims, securing an event location, sending out invitations, preparing the certificates, and executing the event.

Are any outside groups involved? (Schools, Local Business, Law Enforcement, etc.)

No outside groups are directly involved; however, outside groups (students' councils, girl scouts/cub scouts, companies) are recognized at the ceremony.

Timeframe for preparation: (How long does it take to plan this event?)

Event preparation should begin at least two months ahead of time.

Press Component

What press did you invite:

We invited the local daily/weekly newspapers.

What went into your press plan for the event? (Media Advisory, Calls to the local media to invite them, op-ed leading up to the event, advertising the event if it was open to the public...)

We originally mentioned the recognition ceremony in an op-ed in November 2005, and then followed up with calls to each local newspaper that had a local volunteer being recognized.

Other Important Information:

How often do you hold this event?

The event has been held twice.

Other important tips for someone planning an event like this:

An event like this targets many groups and individuals and gets great press coverage.

The most important tip is to extend the invitation and allow individuals being recognized to bring their family members and friends. This allows for other individuals to interact with the Congressman. It is also important to do follow up on this event. Photos taken after the ceremony with the Congressman should be sent to those that were recognized, and certificates should be sent to those that were not able to attend.